

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 436
A BILL RELATING TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES

PRESENTATION TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

BY
BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
February 26, 2015

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the House Committees on Judiciary:

I am Brigadier General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of House Bill 436.

This measure amends the definition of "emergency vehicle" in the law that requires approaching vehicles to slow and change lanes to include state civil defense vehicles and county emergency management vehicles. This needed change to the statewide traffic code will assist emergency management and civil defense personnel in the performance of their official duties in disaster situations.

In line 12 of the bill, your committee should consider a change from "state civil defense vehicle" to "Hawaii Emergency Management Agency vehicle". This would reflect a recent language change in HRS 127A.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of House Bill 436.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Cathy Ross
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
ADMINISTRATION

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
CORRECTIONS

Shawn H. Tsuha
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
LAW ENFORCEMENT

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 436
RELATING TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 02:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

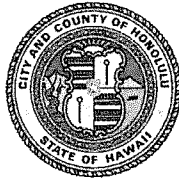
Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** House Bill 436 which proposes to keep clear an area of oncoming traffic for emergency vehicles stopped for official duties as a means of insuring the safety of first responders.

PSD notes that its Sheriffs are also first responders and requests the Committee to consider the inclusion of Sheriff Division vehicles under the definition of "emergency vehicle" in Section 291c-27, Subsection (b).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 723-8960 • FAX: (808) 524-3439



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

MELVIN N. KAKU
DIRECTOR

PETER J.S. HIRAI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 24, 2015

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
415 Beretania Street, Room 302
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill (H.B.) 436, Relating to Emergency Vehicles

I am Melvin Kaku, Director of the Department of Emergency Management, City and County of Honolulu.

The Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu (City), strongly supports the passage of H.B. 436, Relating to Emergency Vehicles with an amendment. In July 2014, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 127 became law, changing State Civil Defense to the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA). Because of this change, we propose amending H.B. 436 to read: "amend subsection §291C -27 (b) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to include Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and emergency management vehicles/personnel as 'Emergency Vehicles'".

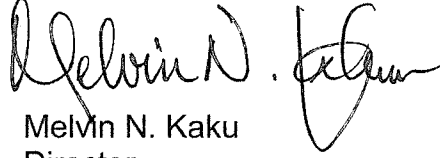
The City's Department of Emergency Management has a cadre of trained Emergency Management Reservists who provide mission critical duties in support of the City's first responders during emergencies. These duties include traffic control, closing of roads, highways and other thoroughfares due to hazardous rockslides, mudslides, flash flooding and other duties which put them in harm's way. This measure will protect these personnel during their mission-critical duties.

DEM strongly supports H.B. 436 with the proposed amended subsection §291C – 27 (b) and thanks the committee for recognizing the necessity to include emergency management in carrying public safety duties. We also support the inclusion of all state law enforcement vehicles into this bill.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads and Members
February 24, 2015
Page 2

I urge your committee to pass H.B. 436 as amended. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

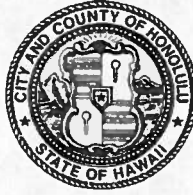
Sincerely,


Melvin N. Kaku
Director

cc: Roy K. Amemiya, Jr., Managing Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 • INTERNET: www.honolulu.org



KIRK W. CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE CT-GR

February 18, 2015

The Honorable Henry J. C. Aquino, Chair
and Members
Committee on Transportation
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety
State House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Aquino and Takayama and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 436, Relating to Emergency Vehicles

I am Calvin Tong, Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu. The HPD strongly supports the passage of House Bill No. 436, Relating to Emergency Vehicles.

Passage of this bill would include all state civil defense and county emergency management vehicles in the definition of "emergency vehicle" in Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 291C-27, commonly known as the "move over" law.

The "move over" law was designated for all emergency responders who provide services to our community, and all state civil defense and county emergency management vehicles should be included in this law.

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 436, Relating to Emergency Vehicles.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Calvin Tong", is written over a horizontal line.

Calvin Tong, Major
Traffic Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Louis M. Kealo", is written over a horizontal line.

Louis M. Kealo
Chief of Police

Serving and Protecting With Aloha

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HB 436

PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

BY

DOUG MAYNE
ADMINISTRATOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
February 23, 2015

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committees.

I am Doug Mayne and I am the Administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 436.

House Bill 436 provides needed protections for emergency management and civil defense personnel during disasters as they provide mission critical functions in and around the roadways of Hawaii.

We propose amending H.B. 436 by changing “state civil defense vehicle” to “state emergency management vehicle” to match language in HRS 127A.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 436.

**THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, VICE CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawai'i

February 26, 2015

**H.B. 436
RELATING TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the Committee on Judiciary, AAA Hawai'i respectfully submits the following testimony in support of H.B. 436, the intent of which is to expand the definition of emergency vehicles under Section 291C-27 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to include state civil defense vehicles and county emergency vehicles. This will enhance the safety of individuals performing their official duties, including providing assistance to motorists, from vehicles that pass within close proximity.

AAA Hawai'i was founded in 1915 in Honolulu and is an industry leader in emergency roadside assistance and a strong advocate for traffic safety. AAA Hawai'i responds to over 80,000 roadside assistance calls annually from our more than 147,000 members. Service to and the safety of our members, other motorists, and all road users is the founding and continuing purpose AAA Hawai'i.

H.B. 436 will improve roadside safety by appropriately expanding the types of vehicles for which passing drivers must "slow down, move over." AAA Hawai'i strongly supports and agrees with the objective of H.B. 436, which is to prevent traffic crashes, injuries, and deaths that can occur when drivers fail to take necessary precautions when approaching emergency vehicles.

Very truly yours,

Liane Sumida

Liane Sumida
General Manager

1130 N. Nimitz Highway, Suite A170, Honolulu, HI 96817

Auto Club Enterprises provides service to more than 14 million members



The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

Subject: House Bill 436, Relating to Emergency Vehicles

I am Colin S Watanabe, an Emergency Management Reservist for the Department of Emergency Management, and stand in support of House Bill 436, Relating to Emergency Vehicles.

As a volunteer Emergency Management Reservist for the City & County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management, my fellow reservists and I provide mission critical duties for the City & County of Honolulu alongside other first responders during emergencies. These duties include closing of roads, highways and other thoroughfares due to rockslides, mudslides, flash flooding as well as other duties which put us in harm's way.

The passage of this bill will amend subsection §291C –(2) (b) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to include Emergency Management vehicles/personnel as "Emergency Vehicles", thus giving us the added protection we need while serving the public during emergencies or other incidents.

I support House Bill 436, and thank this committee for the opportunity to provide testimony for this bill.

Sincerely,

Colin S. Watanabe

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

Subject: House Bill 436, Relating to Emergency Vehicles

I am Nelson Toda, an Emergency Management Reservist for the Department of Emergency Management, and stand in support of House Bill 436, Relating to Emergency Vehicles.

As a volunteer Emergency Management Reservist for the City & County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management, my fellow reservists and I provide mission critical duties for the City & County of Honolulu alongside other first responders during emergencies. These duties include closing of roads, highways and other thoroughfares due to rockslides, mudslides, flash flooding as well as other duties which put us in harm's way.

The passage of this bill will amend subsection §291C -(2) (b) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to include Emergency Management vehicles/personnel as "Emergency Vehicles", thus giving us the added protection we need while serving the public during emergencies or other incidents.

I support House Bill 436, and thank this committee for the opportunity to provide testimony for this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nelson Toda", written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey K. Spencer
P.O. Box 235172
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96823

February 17, 2015

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 436, Relating to Emergency Vehicles

I am Jeffrey Spencer, Reserve Services Coordinator for the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and I stand in strong support of House Bill 436, Relating to Emergency Vehicles.

As the Reserve Services Coordinator for DEM and former volunteer emergency management reservist for the past 20 years, I have responded to various emergency situations that place me and my fellow reservists in harm's way on the roadways of O'ahu,

The passage of this bill is critical in protecting all first responders statewide, by amending §291C –(2) (b) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to include Emergency Management vehicles/personnel as "Emergency Vehicles" and State Public Safety vehicles thus giving all of us the added protection we need while serving the public during emergencies or other incidents.

I support House Bill 436, and thank this committee for the opportunity to provide testimony for this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey K. Spencer", with a large circular flourish around the name and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

Subject: House Bill 436, Relating to Emergency Vehicles

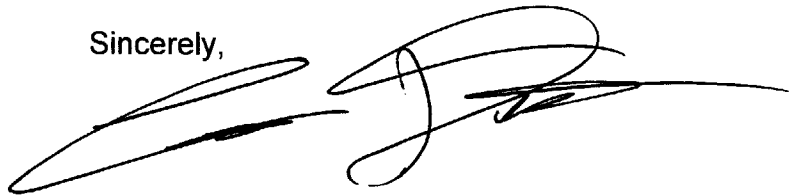
I am Christopher S Date, an Emergency Management Reservist for the Department of Emergency Management, and stand in support of House Bill 436, Relating to Emergency Vehicles.

As a volunteer Emergency Management Reservist for the City & County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management, my fellow reservists and I provide mission critical duties for the City & County of Honolulu alongside other first responders during emergencies. These duties include closing of roads, highways and other thoroughfares due to rockslides, mudslides, flash flooding as well as other duties which put us in harm's way.

The passage of this bill will amend subsection §291C –(2) (b) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to include Emergency Management vehicles/personnel as "Emergency Vehicles", thus giving us the added protection we need while serving the public during emergencies or other incidents.

I support House Bill 436, and thank this committee for the opportunity to provide testimony for this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher S Date", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

LATE

hoads, Chair

Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

Subject: House Bill 436, Relating to Emergency Vehicles

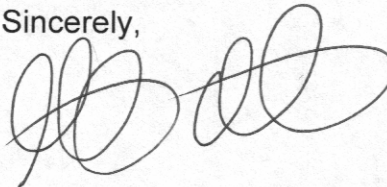
I am Grant Okamoto, an Emergency Management District Coordinator for the Department of Emergency Management, and stand in support of House Bill 436, Relating to Emergency Vehicles.

As a volunteer Emergency Management Reservist for the City & County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management, my fellow reservists and I provide mission critical duties for the City & County of Honolulu alongside other first responders during emergencies. These duties include closing of roads, highways and other thoroughfares due to rockslides, mudslides, flash flooding as well as other duties which put us in harm's way.

The passage of this bill will amend subsection §291C -(2) (b) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to include Emergency Management vehicles/personnel as "Emergency Vehicles", thus giving us the added protection we need while serving the public during emergencies or other incidents.

I support House Bill 436, and thank this committee for the opportunity to provide testimony for this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Grant Okamoto', written in a cursive style.